

AMENDMENTS

Please substitute the following annotated copy text for the pending claims of the same number.

1.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 30, wherein the discharge device comprises an ejection plate, perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of both rollers, wherein the first roller is attached to the ejection plate, and the ejection plate is provided with a hole for sliding over the second roller, wherein the ejection plate is provided with means for moving the ejection plate to a discharge position from an inactive position to the outside over and perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the second roller.

16.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A device for processing poultry carcasses or parts thereof, comprising a conveyor having supports for retaining the carcasses or parts thereof, said conveyor is provided with means for leading the supports in a supply direction past at least one processing installation, wherein the device has a skinner for skinning the carcasses or parts thereof, said skinner is provided with two rollers for gripping the skin and means for moving the rollers relatively with respect to the carcass and substantially perpendicular to the supply direction during the skinning, and has a device for discharging the skin which includes means for moving one of either roller past its axis of rotation.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A device for processing poultry carcasses or parts thereof, comprising a conveyor having supports for retaining the carcasses or parts thereof, said conveyor is provided with means for leading the supports in a supply direction past at least one processing installation, wherein the device has a skinner for skinning the carcasses or parts thereof, said skinner having a skin gripping device which includes two rollers with means for rotating the rollers opposite to and considered from the carcass towards each other, and wherein there are means for moving the skin gripping means perpendicular to the supply direction are in connection to the means for rotating the rollers.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A device for processing poultry carcasses or parts thereof, comprising a conveyor having supports for retaining the carcasses or parts thereof, said conveyor is provided with means for leading the supports in a supply direction past processing installations, wherein the device has a skinner for skinning the carcasses or parts thereof, said skinner has skin gripping means and an ejection plate for engaging skin on the skin gripping means and for ejecting the skin from the skin gripping means.

Please add the following new claims:

34. (Newly Added) A device for processing poultry carcasses or parts thereof, comprising a conveyor having supports for retaining the carcasses or parts thereof, said conveyor is provided with means for leading the supports in a supply direction past at least one processing installation, wherein the device has a skinner for skinning the carcasses or parts thereof, said skinner is provided with skin gripping means for gripping the skin and means for moving the skin gripping means relative to the carcass during skinning, the skin gripping means comprising two rollers having longitudinal axes, said longitudinal axes being substantially parallel to each other and means for rotating said rollers about their respective longitudinal axes in directions opposite to each other, said rollers defining a nip, said nip defining a skin gripping line, the means for moving the skin gripping means being adapted for moving said rollers in relation to said carcass substantially perpendicular to the skin gripping line during skinning.

35. (Newly Added) The device according to claim 34, wherein the means for moving the skin gripping means moves the skin gripping means substantially perpendicular to the supply direction during skinning.

36. (Newly Added) The device according to claim 34, wherein the gripping line is transversal to the supply direction.

37. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 34, wherein the conveyor is provided with vertical supports.

38. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 34, wherein the skinner is provided with pressing means for pressing the skin gripping means on the carcass or a part thereof.

39. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 34, wherein the skinner is provided with means for moving the skin gripping means towards the carcass.
40. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 34, wherein the skinner comprises an arm substantially perpendicular to the supply direction, that is provided with skin gripping means.
41. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 34, wherein only one of either roller comprises means for its driving, wherein said roller drives the other roller.
42. (Newly Added) The device according to claim 34, wherein the rollers have been positioned with respect to each other for gripping the skin and retaining it.
43. (Newly Added) The device according to claim 34, wherein the rollers have been provided with a skin gripping surface.
44. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 43, wherein the rollers have been provided with corrugations in the longitudinal direction.
45. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 44, wherein one of the rollers, is a non-driven roller, comprises a middle portion which is provided with a corrugated surface all round, and outsides having a diameter smaller than the middle portion.
46. (Newly Added) The device according to claim 44, in which the corrugations have planar toothing.

47. (Newly Added) The device according to claim 46, wherein the tothing is staggered and engages a little, though not completely, one into the other.
48. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 34, wherein the skinner is provided with discharge means for the skin.
49. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 34, comprising a rail parallel to the supply direction, onto which the skinner is movably attached.
50. (Newly Added) The device according to Claim 34, comprising a sensor for locating the supports with respect to the skinner.
51. (Newly Added) A method for skinning poultry carcasses, or parts thereof, particularly chicken, wherein skin gripping means grip the skin at one side of the carcass, and the skin gripping means are moved past the carcass in a pull-off direction of the skin while clamping the skin, wherein during skinning the skin is pulled substantially perpendicular to the carcass at the location where the skin becomes detached from the carcass, the skin gripping means comprising two rollers that are pressed against the carcass, at least one of either roller being rotated so that the skin is gripped between the rollers, after which the rollers move relative to the carcass in the pull-off direction of the skin while the rollers are rotated in opposite direction with respect to the carcass and towards each other, clamping the skin in between them and winding it around one of the rollers.
52. (Newly Added) The method according to claim 49, wherein after having reached the other side of the carcass the skinner moves relatively with respect to the carcass opposite to the supply direction, pulling the skin off from the other side of the carcass, after which the skin is slid from the rollers.

53. (Newly Added) A device for processing poultry carcasses or parts thereof, comprising a conveyor having supports for retaining the carcasses or parts thereof, said conveyor is provided with means for leading the supports in a supply direction past processing installations, wherein the device has a skinner for skinning the carcasses or parts thereof, said skinner is provided with an arm perpendicular to the supply direction provided with skin gripping means for gripping the skin, said skinner is movable along the arm during skinning.

54. (Newly Added) A device for processing poultry carcasses or parts thereof, comprising a conveyor having supports for retaining the carcasses or parts thereof, said conveyor is provided with means for leading the supports past processing installations, wherein the device has a skinner for skinning the carcasses or parts thereof, said skinner having skin gripping means and is provided with means for moving the skin gripping means in a plane of symmetry of the carcass during skinning, wherein the skin gripping means are two rollers each having a longitudinal axis, said longitudinal axes of said rollers being substantially parallel to each other, which rollers are oriented with their longitudinal axes substantially perpendicular to the plane of symmetry of the carcass.

55. (Newly Added) A device for processing poultry carcasses or parts thereof, comprising a conveyor having supports for retaining the carcasses or parts thereof, said conveyor is provided with means for leading the supports past processing installations, wherein the device has a skinner for skinning the carcasses or parts thereof, said skinner includes skin gripping means, and arranged for gripping the skin at a first extremity of the carcass and comprising means for moving the skinner from the first extremity to a second extremity for pulling the skin off the carcass, the gripping means being arranged for gripping the skin by exerting a clamping force along a skin gripping line, said skin gripping line being substantially perpendicular to a line connecting the first extremity and the second extremity of the carcass.

56. (Newly Added) A device for processing poultry carcasses or parts thereof, comprising a conveyor having supports for retaining the carcasses or parts thereof, said conveyor is provided with means for leading the supports in a supply direction past processing installations, wherein the device has a skinner for skinning the carcasses or parts thereof, said skinner includes skin gripping means, said skin gripping means includes two clamping rollers having longitudinal axes and being rotatable in opposite directions about their longitudinal axes, wherein the skinner has means for moving the rollers along the carcass during skinning substantially perpendicular to their longitudinal axes, said means are also a means for rotating at least one of the rollers.

57. (Newly Added) A skinner, for skinning the carcasses or parts thereof, said skinner is provided with skin gripping means for gripping the skin and means for moving the skin gripping means relatively with respect to the carcass while clamping the skin during skinning, the gripping means being arranged for gripping the skin by exerting a clamping force along a skin gripping line, said means for moving being arranged for moving the skin gripping means during skinning substantially perpendicular to the skin gripping line and substantially perpendicular to the supply direction during skinning.

58. (Newly Added) A method of skinning poultry carcasses, or parts thereof, particularly chicken, wherein two rollers for skinning the carcass, said rollers having longitudinal axes coinciding with their respective rotational symmetry axes, grip the skin at one side of the carcass and are pressed against the carcass, at least one of either roller being rotated about its longitudinal axis so that the skin is gripped between the rollers and the rollers are moved past the carcass in the pull-off direction of the skin while the rollers rotate in opposite directions, clamping the skin in between them and winding it around one of the rollers, said rollers moving with respect to the carcass opposite to the supply direction and substantially perpendicular to their longitudinal axes, wherein the skin is pulled substantially perpendicular to the carcass at the location where the skin becomes detached from the carcass, and then pulling the skin off from the other side of the carcass and then sliding the skin from the rollers.